

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner notes that references AT, AU, AW AX, AZ, BB, BT and BU cited on the IDS submitted on March 21, 2003 do not have dates. Applicants have added the dates for the references for which they could obtain dates on Form PTO/SB/08A as requested by Examiner.

This amendment is being submitted along with a Petition for Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the fee for a one month extension.

Claims 1-10 and 29-35 remain in this application. Claims 32 and 34 have been amended.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 32 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 32 and 34 have been amended to include "layer" after "body" for correct antecedent basis.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-10 and 29-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuller, Elati-glass fiber mat R3100B in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,389,587 to Levine et al. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Schuller Elati reference discloses glass mats which are treated with an acrylic resin system using a wet-laid process. The Examiner states that the acrylic resin corresponds to the cover layer and that the nonwoven mat of glass fibers correspond to the body layer. This is incorrect. The acrylic resin system of the Schuller reference is the binder that binds together the glass fibers of the mat. The Schuller mat does not have two layers, i.e., a body layer and a cover layer, but rather has a single layer of glass fibers bound by an acrylic resin. This is evident

from the first paragraph in Schuller which states that “[t]he combination of binder and glass fibers form a product with exceptional tear, toughness, flex, and elongation properties”, and also the listing of properties of the glass mat which indicates a single layer having certain recited properties. Therefore, the Schuller reference does not teach or suggest a cover layer and a body layer as required by claim 1. Nor does Schuller teach or suggest a “cover layer . . . cast on the roughly textured face [of the body layer]”. The acrylic resin of Schuller is not cast on the face of the mat of that reference, but rather the acrylic resin is dispersed throughout the mat and mixed with the glass fibers to form the single layer mat. Further, as admitted by the Examiner, Schuller does not teach or suggest that the “cover layer has a thickness dimension which is substantially uniform”, nor that the “cover layer is permanently embedded into the body layer from the roughly textured face to a depth less than the thickness dimension” as required by claim 1.

Levine et al. teach an insulation sleeving having an inner insulating layer such as a woven fiberglass, an insulation resin, such as an acrylic resin, overcoating the inner layer, an additional insulating layer, such as fiberglass, overbraided upon the overcoating, and a binder, such as an acrylic resin, which is impregnated into the sleeving and which fixes the sleeving to the inner resin layer. Levine et al. do not teach or suggest a “cover layer [having] a thickness dimension which is substantially uniform” as required by claim 1. Levine et al. simply states that the polymeric coating thickness is generally 0.013 cm to 0.076 cm, and nowhere suggests that such thickness dimension is substantially uniform. Rather Levine et al. state that the coating is applied by conventional methods, such as dipping, spraying or brushing, which do not inherently provide a coating thickness which is substantially uniform. Therefore, as neither the Schuller nor Levine et al. reference teach or suggest a cover layer that has a thickness dimension which is substantially uniform as required by independent claim 1, this claim should be allowable over these cited references. As claims 2-10 and 29-35 depend from claim 1, they should be allowable for the same reason.

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Respectfully submitted,

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